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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 020405

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. EC DISCUSSIONS OF WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE

USEC REPORTS THAT THE INITIAL DISCUSSION OF THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE BY THE EC PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON JANUARY 30 REVEALED A CLEAR DIVISION, WITH EIGHT STATES FAVORING A SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON BUT FRANCE INSISTING THE MEETING BE LIMITED TO PROCEDURES AND QUESTIONS TO BE TAKEN UP IN PREPARATION FOR A BROADER CONFERENCE. THE FRENCH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT IS NOT LIKELY TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) EC BRUSSELS 618, 1/30.

2. JAPAN SIGNALS CAUTION

A JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL, IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY TOKYO'S PRESENTATION OF US VIEWS ON THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, INDICATED A CAUTIOUS JAPANESE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE CONFERENCE. HE WAS SPECIFICALLY CONCERNED OVER THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 020405

ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCES, THE EARLY START OF COMMUNIQUE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

DRAFTING, AND THE MECHANISM FOR BRINGING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE OIL PRODUCING NATIONS INTO ENERGY DISCUSSIONS. THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT JAPANESE ATTITUDES HAVE

APPARENTLY BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE YAMANI-ABDESSALEM VISIT. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 1338, 1/30.

3. UK: NO MORE OIL BARTER DEALS

ACCORDING TO A HIGH LEVEL TRADE AND INDUSTRY OFFICIAL, HMG HAS NO FURTHER INTEREST IN PURSUING BARTERTYPE OIL DEALS. THE GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED THAT BARTER ARRANGEMENTS WILL DISTORT INTERNATIONAL TRADING PATTERNS AND WILL HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE PRICE AND SUPPLY OF OIL. THE IRANIAN DEAL WAS A SPECIAL CASE WHERE HMG HAD TO ACT IMMEDIATELY TO ENSURE ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES OF OIL IN ORDER TO AVERT A DOMESTIC ECONOMIC CRISIS. FURTHERMORE, ACCORDING TO THIS OFFICIAL, NO OTHER OIL PRODUCING STATES, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF ALGERIA, HAVE REACHED THE STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT WHERE THE TYPES OF INDUSTRIAL GOODS SUPPLIED IRAN WOULD BE IN GREAT DEMAND. MOST OIL PRODUCERS ARE MORE INTERESTED IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-RELATED INVESTMENT ARRANGEMENTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 1376, 1/30.

4. SPECULATION ON CONTACTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN

A PLETHORA OF PRESS STORIES CONCERNING SECRET ISRAELI-JORDANIAN CONTACTS HAVE APPEARED RECENTLY IN ISRAEL. EMBASSY TEL AVIV COMMENTS THAT THE PRESS SPECULATION TOUCHES AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUE IN ISRAEL AND COULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR MRS. MEIR TO FORM A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT. THE HEAD OF THE JORDANIAN DELEGATION TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE TOLD EMBASSY AMMAN THAT THE STORIES ARE INCORRECT, BUT HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ISRAELIS MAY BE PREPARING PUBLIC OPINION ON THIS ISSUE. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 560, 1/30 AND (SECRET) AMMAN 482, 1/30. KISSINGER

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